

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 SCCT-01 ACDA-05 /076 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6279

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFIN, UN, AORG, EG, XF

SUBJECT: UN ADMINISTRATION - QUESTION OF SUMMARY RECORDS
FOR PALESTINE COMMITTEE

REF: USUN 939

1. COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES (C/C) MARCH 11 DEBATED OVERTIME
QUESTION OF SUMMARY RECORDS (SR'S) FOR COMMITTEE ON THE
EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE, WITHOUT REACHING AGREEMENT. FURTHER CONSIDERATION
POSTPONED UNTIL MORNING MEETING MARCH 15.

2. SUPPORTERS OF SR'S FOR PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE, WHO OF
COURSE WERE IN MAJORITY ON C/C, WERE SEVERELY DISADVANTAGED
BY CLEAR RULING OF UN LEGAL COUNSEL THAT SECRETARIAT HAD NO
AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE SR'S AND C/C HAD NO COMPETENCE TO
REQUIRE THEM. C/C CHAIRMAN THOMAS (TRINIDAD & TOBAGO)
ADDED HIS WEIGHT TO THIS ARGUMENT BY STATING THAT HIS OWN
RESEARCH CONVINCED HIM THAT THERE WAS NO LEGAL WAY SR'S
COULD BE AUTHORIZED. HE SAID HE HAD NEVERTHELESS BROUGHT
THE PROBLEM BEFORE THE C/C IN THE HOPE THAT SOME OTHER
SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND. LEGAL COUNSEL AND CHAIRMAN THOMAS
NOT ONLY CITED UNAMBIGUOUS LANGUAGE OF RESOLUTION
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2538 (XXIV) AND FAILURE OF RESOLUTION 3376 (XXX) TO CALL FOR

SR'S FOR PALESTINE COMMITTEE, BUT THREE PRECEDENTS WHERE SECRETARIAT DENIED SR'S BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT BEEN EXPRESSLY PROVIDED FOR IN THE ENABLING RESOLUTION, TO WIT, CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE IN ITS FIRST YEAR, AD HOC COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, AND THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.

3. NEVERTHELESS, SUPPORTERS OF SR'S PRESSED THEIR CASE HARD. MAIN SPOKEMEN WERE ALGERIA, EGYPT, USSR, YUGOSLAVIA WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM TUNISIA, ROMANIA, INDIA, PERU, PHILIPPINES, COLOMBIA. THEY ALL CITED ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE OF PALESTINE COMMITTEE, ITS CONCERN WITH PEASE AND SECURITY, THE REQUIREMENT THAT IT REPORT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL JUNE, AND THE DIFFICULTY OF DOING ITS WORK AND GIVING THE SECURITY COUNCIL A MEANINGFUL REPORT IF IMPORTANT SPEECHES OF DELEGATES WERE NOT MADE AVAILABLE IN AT LEAST SUMMARY FORM. SECRETARIAT WAS ACCUSED OF NARROW LEGALISM AND THREATS WERE MADE TO FLOOD SECREARIAT WITH DOCUMENTATION REQUESTS IF IT WERE NOT MORE ACCOMMODATING. US AND UK STRONGLY SUPPORTED LEGAL POSITION OF SECRETARIAT AND CHAIRMAN THOMAS, AND SAID C/C SHOULD DECLINE TO GET INVOLVED IN THIS QUESTION. BELGIUM AGREEN (AFTER NOTING THAT NO DOUBT IF GA WERE IN SESSION NOW IT WOULD GIVE PALESTINE COMMITTEE SR'S) URGING C/C NOT TO COMPROMISE ITS OWN FUTURE EFFECTIVENESS BY TAKING ANY POSITION AT ALL. OTHER WEO'S - CANADA, FRANCE, AUSTRIA - MAINTAINED A SAFE SILENCE.

4. BEFORE ADJOURNING THOMAS INVITED SUPPORTERS OF SR'S TO CONSIDER WHETHER SOLUTION MIGHT BE TO APPEND TEXTS OF SPEECHES TO PALESTINE COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO SECURITY COUNCIL. THIS WAS DONE IN CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE'S FIRST YEAR REPORT.
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